

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 remain pending in the present application. Claims 16-21 have been withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2 4-7, 9-12, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,485,897) as well as by Meiss et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,819). The Examiner alleges that these references each illustrate Applicant's invention.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claims 1 and 7 now further define that each bridge side is located at a lateral end of the one piece body to connect the first and second sidewalls. Also, the opening between the first, second and pair of side bridges spans between the pair of bridge sides forming a continuous opening between the bridge sides such that the at least two bores are accessible through the opening for enabling access into the body.

The Kawaguchi et al. reference cited by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention. Kawaguchi et al. does not disclose bridge sides as suggested by the Examiner. The Kawaguchi et al. reference has a caliper base (adjacent to the numeral 64 in Figure 3), which is continuous across the caliper. The base does not include an opening as defined by Applicant. Accordingly, the Kawaguchi et al. reference fails to anticipate Applicant's invention. Likewise, Kawaguchi et al. fails to disclose or suggest the bridge sides and opening as claimed. Accordingly, Applicant

believes Claim 1 and 7 as well as dependent Claims 2-8 and 9-15 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

With respect to Meiss et al., Meiss et al. illustrates, in Figure 5, a pair of openings. As suggested by the Examiner, the Examiner indicates that Meiss et al. includes three bridge sections (18, 19, and 41). Accordingly, the opening does not span between a pair of bridge sections which are positioned at the lateral ends of the one piece body. Accordingly, Meiss et al. fails to anticipate Claims 1 and 7. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 1 and 7, as well as their dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-15, to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3, 8, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meiss et al.

As explained above, the Meiss et al. reference fails to anticipate independent Claims 1 and 7. Likewise, Meiss et al. lacks several features of the claimed device and would not render it unpatentable. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claims 3, 8 and 13 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

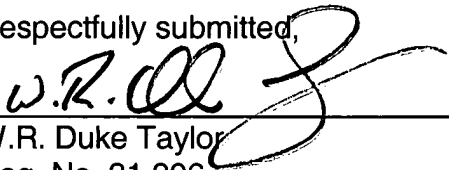
DOUBLE PATENTING

The Examiner has provisionally rejected Claims 1-15 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-12 and 20 of co-pending Application No. 10/395,925.

Upon allowance of the present application or the '925 application, Applicant will submit, if necessary, a terminal disclaimer overcoming the Examiner's obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,



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